

## IRA grant # 1008 Post Activity report

The Steel Drum recording project 2 was a success this past semester. We completed songs that we had started in the Fall semester and added a couple of new ones. We also had the privilege of being part of the CI PA demo CD project with Geoff Emerick. Our Steel Band contributed 1 song for that project. And our African group contributed 1 song. The students spent most of their time learning the music while I had the engineer record us. I tried not to make a fuss about the recording as to alleviate the students fears. All in all, the result was great! A physical CD will be coming to the IRA office as soon as they are ready. I have included some short statements from some of the students. Thank so again for supporting this project. Ray McNamara

Hello Ray,

Hope all is well.

I am emailing here the paragraph that you requested along with my thoughts of the course.

The steel drumming course was a great experience! I learned much more than I thought I would and really enjoyed the experience. If I was not graduating, I would take the course along with African. I found the history behind the steel drumming to be very interesting which is one of the reasons why I wanted to take the course. My family being from the Caribbean I thought it was important for me to learn more from that area and to have fun while doing it! Your teaching style was helpful for the class as a whole, I never felt like I couldn't ask you something. Although I had not taking a music course during my college career I was encouraged by your teaching and knew that i was able to do it. I do wish that we didn't have to go back and forth transporting drums, but I know thats out of your control.

Thank you Ray I had a great time taking the class.

Kindest Regards,

Maggie

Here's my paragraph on the recording and concert.

**Performing our Steel Drumming songs live was a great experience and I really enjoyed it! It was fun to learn so many different songs throughout the semester and then be able to perform them for an audience and to see the great reactions from everyone listening and watching. It was exciting to have the performance recorded so we can watch it and have it to show others.**

I really liked our final performance and thought it was a good idea! It was a great way to end the semester.

Thanks,  
Hannah Rachel Strohman

Daniel Gomez-Reynaga

#### Experience with end of the year concert

My experience with the Steel Drumming and African Drumming courses was fantastic. I learned a lot about the cultural significance and history of the music and had the privilege to get to play it as well. Ray did a great job instructing the course. He is very knowledgeable about both the culture and music from all of the regions we covered. It was an eye opening experience that everyone should get the opportunity to participate in.

The concert at the end was great as well. I was enrolled in both the Steel Drumming and African Drumming course, therefore, I was able to play for both parts of the concert. This concert gave us students the chance to show what we learned throughout the semester and perform it in front of a crowd, which felt really good. The class and I received a lot of positive feedback from the many guests who came to watch the performance.

I had such a great time that if I had another semester left at University, I would definitely take both of these courses again.

Piper Anthony

Professor McNamara

PAMU 206

21 May 2018

### Drumming Experience

The concert experience for the Introduction to Steel Drumming class was a culmination of all of the hard work us students as a whole had put in for nearly four months. It was amazing to see the perspectives of outsiders (the audience members) who had not seen all of the time, energy, and effort that went into our class learning how to play instruments that most of us hadn't even seen before taking this course. Many were in awe that we were "beginners" and were able to pull off playing the five songs that we did and make them sound as good as we did. A lot of the people who watched us were so interested in what we were playing that they themselves expressed interest in wanting to learn how to play steel drums themselves. Throughout the semester, Professor McNamara recorded us, partly so that we could hear what we sounded like for further learning and improvement, and partly so that he could put together a CD of our collection of songs. If I hadn't just graduated, I would definitely be interested in taking this class again. In the past, I have recruited others to take the class, and I was thanked afterwards for encouraging those people to join in what turned out to be a wonderful experience. I am so glad that Professor McNamara brought this class to CSU Channel Islands!